



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	<i>Enfield Sexual Health Service Provision</i>
Report to	Healthy and Safe Communities Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	27 th January 2025
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Executive Director / Director	Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director (People) Dudu Sher Arami, Director of Public Health
Report Author	Dudu Sher Arami, Director of Public Health
Ward(s) affected	All
Classification	Part 1
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update to the Healthy and Safe Scrutiny Panel about;
 - a. Current provision of sexual health services to Enfield residents.
 - b. Recent negotiations with Royal Free (formerly North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (NMUH) regarding provision of open access sexual health service provision.

Main Considerations for the Panel

Current provision of sexual health services

2. The London Borough of Enfield commissions a range of Level 1-3 Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services supporting Enfield residents to have access to an integrated sexual health system across the borough as well as access to open access sexual health services regionally and nationally (which London Borough of Enfield is required to pay for through the Public Health Grant). The integrated system delivers a range of services supporting residents to access testing and treatment,

contraceptive options, family planning guidance and preventative support in borough. This includes:

3. Commissioned sexual health services delivered by Royal Free (formerly North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (NMUH) provide access to Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) and Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH), including HIV, to all residents of the borough. The range of services being provided through the ECHO clinics includes STi testing and treatment, Family Planning & Contraception, Young Peoples' Outreach & Prevention, access to sexual health aspects of psychosexual support, and delivery of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Following Sexual Exposure (PEPSE) / Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
4. Other sexual health service provision commissioned by London Borough of Enfield includes;
 - Access to the free and confidential online Sexual Health London (SHL) E-Service for those aged 16 years and over, who are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms for testing and treatment of STis. This offers flexibility, confidentiality, and fast response time through at home STi testing and self-managing treatment.
 - Access to community services for the provision of Long-Acting Reversal Contraception (LARC) within primary care GP clinics and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) through Pharmacy outlets across the borough.
 - Preventive provision via the C-Card Condom Distribution Scheme where young people can access free condoms through various outlets and pharmacies across the borough.
 - Access to HIV treatment and support at the Alexander Pringle Centre (APC) via an NHS England commission rather than the Local Authority.
 - Support through the Pan London HIV Prevention Programme (LHPP) for point of care HIV testing and support/referral into treatment.
5. London Borough of Enfield entered the current block contract with Royal Free (formerly North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (NMUH) in 2017 to provide Level 3 (testing and treatment) Sexual Health services, over the last 18 months the Council has been negotiating with Royal Free (formerly North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (NMUH) regarding contractual arrangements for Level 3 testing and treatment sexual health services. Substantial evidence indicates that the most cost effective way of to deliver these services through the pan-London Integrated Sexual Health Tariff (ISHT) this is the standardised pricing mechanism used nationally and by most providers across London. On the 19th December 2024 NMUH Trust made a proposal to move to the ISHT payment arrangements by April 2026. At the time of writing this report, this proposal is currently under active consideration by the Council.

Background

Why are sexual health services essential to the wellbeing of residents?

6. It is a statutory duty for Local Authorities to pay for residents to use open access Sexual Health services. These services are identified as 'prescribed functions' of the Public Health Grant and involve testing, treatment and prevention.
7. The World Health Organisation defines sexual health as a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing in relation to sexuality – it is not just the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence'.
8. Most adults are sexually active but sexual health needs vary according to age, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The consequences of poor sexual health can significantly impact an individuals life as well as impact communities more generally, examples include;
 - Unplanned pregnancies and abortions
 - Poor educational, social and economic outcomes as a result of early parenthood
 - Consequences of sexual coercion and abuse
 - Transmission of preventable infections such and their complications including poor fertility
 - Cervical and other genital cancers
 - Poor maternity outcomes for mothers and babies

Sexual health outcomes

National/ regional

9. Data produced by the UK Health Security Agency indicates that new diagnosis for sexually transmitted infections remain high nationally. London has among the highest burden of new diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections in England.
10. Inequality in sexual health outcomes are apparent nationally by age, ethnicity, socio- economic status and sexuality. Across London, STIs disproportionately affect young people. Certain ethnic groups have higher rates of STIs than average. Additionally, men have higher rates of diagnosed STIs.
11. One of the national successes with regard to sexual health has been the reduction in conception rate for women aged under 18 years which has decrease dramatically since 2011.

Enfield Key trends (data from DHSE fingertips most recent published):

12. Teenage pregnancy (2021 data)
 - There has been a significant reduction in conceptions in under 18-year-olds since 2006 in Enfield. Current trend indicates that Enfield is statistically similar to England but higher than London. Under 18 conception rate/1000 in Enfield is 13.9, London 9.5 and England 13.1.

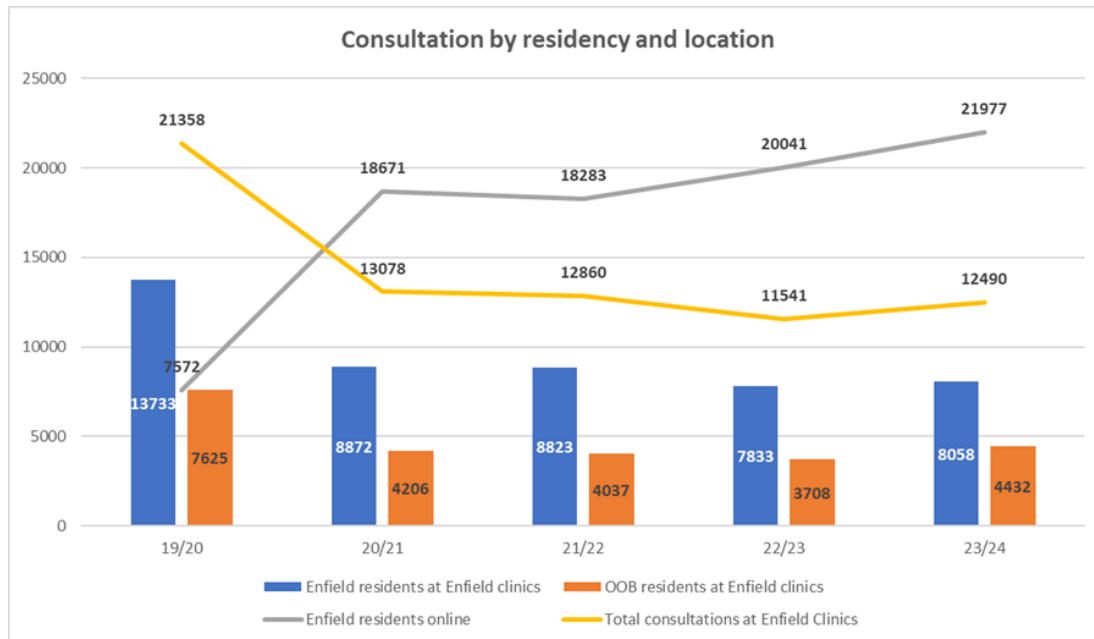
Among young women under 18 in Enfield 40.6% of conceptions resulted in abortion.

13. Sexually transmitted infections (2023 data)
 - With regard to new STI diagnosis per 100 000 (excluding chlamydia), the rate among Enfield residents (670) is lower than London (1229) but higher than England (520).
 - With regard to HIV, the testing rate per 100 000 residents in Enfield (4305.6) was higher than England (2770.7) but lower than London (6816.5) (2021-3 data).
14. HIV (2023 data)
 - New diagnosis of HIV per 1000 followed a similar trend with Enfield (13.7) having a higher rate than England (10.4) but lower than London (17.2).
 - The diagnosed prevalence rate for HIV among Enfield residents was 4.19, compared to 5.25 in London and 2.4 in England.
 - It is important that HIV infection is diagnosed early. 49% of Enfield residents with HIV diagnosis in the UK had late diagnosis compared to 41% in London and 43% in England.
15. Abortions (2021 data)
 - The proportion of abortions taking place under 10 weeks is increasing in Enfield (89.4%) this compares favourably to London (88.8%) and England (88.6%).
16. Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) (2022 data)
 - The rate that women in Enfield have taken up LARC has decreased during the pandemic and Enfield (19 per 1000) has remained lower than London (33.2) and England (44.1).
17. Vaccination coverage for HPV (2022/3 data)
 - Human Papilloma Virus vaccination coverage has reduced or remained static in many London Boroughs since the pandemic. In Enfield uptake is 52.9% of 12-13 year olds in comparison to 59% in London and 71.3% in England.
17. As is the case with most London boroughs, Enfield faces sexual health challenges; however, it is important to note that STI diagnosis rates are higher in many other London boroughs, including some of our neighbouring boroughs/ statistical neighbours. Again, whilst rates of diagnosis for gonorrhoea, detection of chlamydia and under 25 repeat abortions are high in Enfield compared to England, most other London boroughs have higher rates. For example, rates of gonorrhoea in the North Central London (NCL) region are lowest in Enfield (*source: UKHSA Fingertips*).

Service related data

18. During 2023/4 12,490 appointments were provided by the NMUH service to 8,058 Enfield residents.

Figure 1: Consultations by residency and location



19. In 2018, the Sexual Health London eService was launched, and Enfield has seen a channel shift to this service over the last six years, particularly after it became available to people with symptomatic conditions during the Covid pandemic. In 2023/24, the e-service provided 21,977 to 9,378 Enfield residents. The SHL eService has a very high satisfaction rate among service users as it is convenient and discrete.
20. On average, 35% of patients accessing Enfield clinics come from outside the borough (most from Haringey), and 36% of Enfield patients accessing services choose to use a clinic outside of the borough (most of these go to Islington, Camden, Westminster, Hackney and Tower Hamlets).
21. The Enfield clinic is spread across two sites, with the main clinic at Burleigh Way and a satellite provision at White Lodge (both sites are in or near Enfield Town). Most patients (58%) attend the Burleigh Way site.
22. About 30% of clinic attendees are new patients, 50% are returning patients who have rebooked, and 20% are follow-up visits.
23. The majority of consultations at clinics are for testing, with around 68% of these being for Syphilis.
24. In 2022/23, a total of 2,966 attendances were for family planning.

Commissioning across North Central London

25. Most boroughs commission specialist sexual health services and all pay for their residents to use open access services (which can be accessed anywhere in the country). The majority of these are paid for using the Integrated Sexual Health Tariff (ISHT). Enfield forms part of the North Central London (NCL) region, and within this area all other boroughs utilise the ISHT – their primary provider is Central North West London (CNWL) NHS Trust.

Key areas of focus moving forward:

- I. Work with Primary Care to increase LARC uptake

- II. Work with Sexual Health Services to increase testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections aiming, in part, to reduce the late diagnosis of HIV infection
- III. Work with School Aged Vaccination Provider to increase the coverage of HPV vaccination among young people.
- IV. Continue to work with the Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy Board to continue reduction in conceptions among under 18 year olds.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

- 26. Key relevance to the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy Live Well priority (for 2024-6) to support residents to manage their major conditions.

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